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Application No.: 10/717,910

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend Paragraph [0022] as follows:

[0022] FIG. 1 is a partially cutaway sectional view of an example of how to use a reagent vessel cap according to an embodiment of the present invention[[;]] . ~~and~~

Please amend Paragraph [0023] as follows:

[0023] FIG. 2 is an enlarged view of part of the reagent vessel cap.

Please insert the following paragraphs after Paragraph [0023]:

FIG. 3 is a top plain view of the sealing member.

FIG. 4 is an elevational view of the sealing member when the radial slits are expanding.

Please delete Paragraph [0025].

Please amend Paragraph [0032] as follows:

[0032] The sealing member 4 is molded in one piece of an elastic body such as rubber such that an inverse-L-shaped engaging part 43 is formed around the outer periphery of a disk plate 41 through a thin hinge 42, the disk plate 41 having a plurality of radial slits ~~(not shown)~~ 44 from the center toward the outer periphery as shown in FIG. 3.

Please amend Paragraph [0033] as follows:

Docket No.: 050049-0041 **PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 20277
Hiroyuki TAKAHASHI, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 7364
Application No.: 10/717,910	:	Group Art Unit: 1743
Filed: November 21, 2003	:	Examiner: Paul Sang Hwa Hyun

For: REAGENT VESSEL CAP AND METHOD FOR SHIELDING REAGENT FROM THE AIR

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following Remarks and Amendment are submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 10, 2007.

Amendments to the specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the drawings begin on page 4 of this paper and include attached new drawing sheets.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 9 of this paper.

[0033] The disk plate 41 that constitutes the sealing member 4 has the slits 44 extending radially and evenly from the center toward the outer periphery. The disk plate 41 and the slits 44 have the important function of sealing and opening the opening 12 of the vessel body 11. Preferably, the number of the slits is small and the thickness of the disk plate [[41]] is large for sealing purpose, whereas the number of slits is large and the thickness is small for opening purpose.

Please amend Paragraph [0034] as follows:

[0034] In the invention, it is preferable to provide three to five slits, more preferably, to provide four slits 44 so as to divide the disk plate 41 into four equal parts in cross shape, seen from the top, with a length from the center to the position with which the end of an inner cylinder 64 (described later) of the pressurizing member 6 is in contact as shown in FIG. 3. The disk plate 41 has preferably a thickness within the range of 1 to 2 mm. However, they are not limited to those.

Please amend Paragraph [0046] as follows:

[0046] When the pressurizing member 6 is further pushed downward, the sealing member 4 is expanded downward into, for example, four parts by the action of the slits of the disk plate 41 to open the reagent vessel 1. FIG. 4 shows a side elavational view of the slits 44 of the sealing member 4 expanding downward to be opened. The collecting probe is then hung down via the through hole 61 into the vessel body 11 to collect a necessary amount of reagent.